THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK

Applicant:

Hake et al.

Title:

SEAT BACK FOR A VEHICLE

SEAT COMPRISING AN INTEGRATED PROTECTIVE

**DEVICE** 

Appl. No.:

10/049,698

Filing

02/15/2002

Date:

Examiner:

Edell, Joseph F.

Art Unit:

3636

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.56

**Commissioner for Patents** PO Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

Please note that reissue application number 10/427,157 has been filed and is currently pending in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The reissue application is based upon U.S. 6,478,373, which is listed in the attached form PTO-1449.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING hereby certify that this correspondence is being with the United States Postal Service with suff postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on the date below. (Signature) (Date of Deposit)

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any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

## TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

## **RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

Several documents listed on the attached PTO-1449 were cited as being relevant during the prosecution of corresponding foreign applications. Copies of the foreign search reports are attached. An English-language counterpart of the foreign-language documents has been provided where readily available.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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